

## **A reading from the book of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 and Isaiah 65:17-25**

### **Warning against Idleness**

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, beloved,<sup>[a]</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are<sup>[b]</sup> living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they<sup>[c]</sup> received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters,<sup>[d]</sup> do not be weary in doing what is right.

### **The Glorious New Creation**

<sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;<sup>[a]</sup>  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—  
and their descendants as well.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

**This is the word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God**

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